

Serial No. 10/797,081

Attorney Docket No. 01-592

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 7 and 8 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Shiiki *et al.* in view of Nagao *et al.* The following is to supplement the remarks made in the amendment filed on 30 January 2006.

Assuming, that one skilled in the art were motivated to modify Shiiki to use the method of forming the film 403 taught by Nagao, the present invention still achieves superior results over such an approach.

More particularly, Shiiki discloses that in the alternative to the use of CMP technique, the insulating film may be formed by SOG (spin on glass) and then leveled by etchback. (See, e.g., paragraph 104). Thus, if one skilled in the art was to modify Shiiki in view of Nagao, the artisan would still be taught to use etchback in view of Shiiki. In comparison, the present invention achieves a leveled surface by SOG with a non-etching process by use of the recited step.

In summary, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify Shiiki in view of Nagao. In view of this conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Further regarding the rejection of claim 10, the applicants will more fully point out the superior results achieved by a width in a range between 1 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a thickness in a range between 10 and 50 nm. According to Shiiki, the 100-500 Angstrom resistive film has a region in

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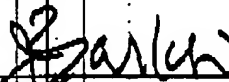
which an error is output by the ladder circuit or the pair property deteriorates (5% - 17% pair dispersion). In the present invention, even if the resistive film thickness is 100-500 Angstroms, the pair defined by the under shape is restrained to a pair dispersion of less than 2% as shown in Fig. 3C.

It was asserted in the office action that the applicants have not properly asserted the superior results achieved by the recited ranges. In Figs. 2A and 3C, the applicants clearly show the superior results achieved by the recited taper angle and metal fin space, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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